Ypsilanti - depot town

2/1981

depot town

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
meets at 7:30 p.m., Thursday
19 February 1981
in the Caboose at
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

New D.T.A. Constitution Passes

At its January meeting, the Depot Town Association voted to update its working constitution and put it more in line with its Articles of Incorporation with the State of Michigan. Changes from the previous constitution included a dues raise and a new form of membership involvement: "Sustaining members" may now pay $100 annually to support the activities of the neighborhood association. Copies of the entire document are available at the Caboose.

Public Relations: Write in Style

Ypsilanti Area Futures, Inc., announces a symposium for local organizations to develop public relations skills through effective writing — February 21, 1981 from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Alumni Lounge at EMU's McKenny Hall.

The workshop is offered free by the Ypsilanti Area Futures, Inc. and the **Ypsilanti Press**.

Make your registration by calling 482-2230 during business hours. Enrollment is limited.

Signal House, c. 1892

Important City Election Monday, 16 February 1981

BE SURE TO CAST YOUR VOTE — City Council, Mayor, Propositions "A" and "B".

EAST-WEST ANIMOSITY CONTINUES . . . PROPOSAL "A" DRAWS THE LINES

During last May's "Boomer Days", Depot Town called attention to the 1850's rift between East and West Ypsilanti culminating in the East Side's actual secession from Ypsilanti for one year. Such historical data gave us another reason to celebrate the sense of community in this old neighborhood.

The 1980 Boomer Days also focused our attention on the other end of the summer season: the second Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival which drew more than 100,000 people to celebrate our recent renaissance/rebirth in Depot Town.

Since that time the East/West controversy has flared again with Ypsilanti voters going to the polls on February 16 to determine how its city shall be governed.

Since that 1850's reunification, and until World War II, the East Side was a booming business district and thriving residential neighborhood. Ypsilanti, however, restructured its rules to adjust to the influx of Boomer Plant workers and sudden population growth. With that restructuring came a neighborhood decline which paralleled the decline of the railroad industry, the growth of super highways and the popularity of decentralized suburban shopping centers. The central business district of the city suffered a decline as well, but with greater dignity.

The student boom of the 60's saw this city regrouping to meet the suspected student vote and restructuring it into a new ward system. We are now left with a large East Side ward which also includes most of Huron Street and stretches from the south end to the north end of the city.

Recent neighborhood political action has shown Depot Towners much more involved in the actions of the city than during those bad-old days. Nearly every committee, commission and council in Ypsilanti has strong East side representation and that representation has paid off handsomely for this struggling old neighborhood. All that new concrete and the Farmers' Market easily attest to our workable relationship with the rest of the city and the city administration. We're a real part of the action now.

The present City Council boasts two members per ward with the mayor pro tem chosen from among them and mayor elected at large. In a new, recent move to improve and facilitate city government, a plan has been offered (Proposal A) to reduce the City Council to one non-partisan council member per ward (Depot Town is in Ward Five) and give us a mayor and mayor pro tem elected at large.

Last August, the Association invited former Councilmember Curtis Bassett to discuss the issue. Bassett felt Proposal A was a power play by the affluent West Side to control city government and predicted the East Side's decline and neglect as was seen in previous years under such an arrangement. He attributed recent successes in this neighborhood to the closer working relationship with the city and encouraged the larger, more comprehensive council arrangement. He also questioned the worth and precedent of a mayor pro tem elected at large without having to report to any particular constituency.

At a subsequent association meeting, DTA invited former Mayor John Burton to speak to the issue. Burton spoke of streamlining the council, the extra cost of two representatives per ward, and the long history of cooperation between neighborhoods and groups of individuals within the city. Burton was one of the founders of TEEG, the organization which first designed Proposal A. He sees the present controversy and dissension among the council greatly lessened by the proposed smaller, non-partisan council.

After these fact-finding sessions, the Association deliberated whether or not to endorse one of the positions regarding Proposal A. When we examined our articles of incorporation, we found the statement "shall not put a substantial amount of its energy into political issues . . . etc". Although other non-profit community groups have ignored this legal binder, DTA decided to abide by its interpretation of this legal document with the State of Michigan.

At this writing, it seems the Depot Town Association can best be of service by encouraging all the citizens of Ypsilanti to complete their investigation of the issues brought about by Proposal A and be sure to cast their votes on Monday, February 16. Remember, Depot Towners, there are no national or state citizens. There are only local citizens — like the people we know who live and work in Depot Town. The local elections have the greatest importance in our lives and most directly affect our community. Don't miss this opportunity to determine your representation within our city.

ARTRAIN TO RETURN MAY 29 — JUNE 2, 1981

10TH ANNIVERSARY STARTS IN YPSILANTI'S DEPOT TOWN

Negotiations are nearly completed with the Michigan Council for the Arts' Tenth Annual tour of the Michigan ARTRAIN. Many area residents will remember the ARTRAIN's first visit to this community which focused attention upon this then-rundown neighborhood. This year's visit will see many contrasts. The Ypsilanti stop is part of the five-state tour which will also include Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri.

Local organizations supporting the local stop include Ypsilanti Area Futures Inc., the Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Ypsilanti Arts Council and the Depot Town Association. Depot Towner, Tom Dodd, is local chairperson for the five-day event and welcomes your participation and support on the several local planning committees. Call him at 482-6371 with your ideas and plans.

More Magic in Heritage Festival Kickoff

Hundreds of local workers and planners for the 1981 Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival will kick off their projects in the old third floor ballroom at 46 E. Cross St. on Friday the thirteenth.

Festival chairperson Nat Edmunds will outline new plans and directions for the third Festival while other program participants will pull rabbits from hats, saw women in half and perform other spectacular feats of magic and merriment.

The evening's magical theme will be introduced by Community High School's interpretation of the opening number from PIPPIN: "We've Got Magic To Do."

The evening is meant to be a reward to previous workers, as well as an opportunity for new volunteers to join the action. Beer and wine will be available, courtesy of the Sidetrack. Join them at this magical session at 8 p.m.

Tickets will be available for the March 7 Festival Kickoff Party at the McKenny Hall Ballroom as well.

The Heritage Festival is a great community effort and is open to all. The magic starts this week.

Low-Cost, Comprehensive Health/Hospitalization Plan Now Available for Depot Town Association Members:

In response to a need expressed by many businesses and residents of the neighborhood, the Depot Town Association has arranged for a health and hospitalization group plan to be administered by the Association for however many members wish to apply for the service. All claims will be handled directly by the Company and will be submitted through a local agent, Finn's J.M.&J. Agency, Inc., here in Ypsilanti.

A representative will be on board the Caboose to answer all questions and take applications on the following dates: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 21; Monday, November 24, and Monday, December 1st.

The DTA-sponsored program includes:

- $5,000 group term life insurance
- $5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance
- The plan will pay the semi-private hospital room and board for the first 30 days of confinement (not subject to a deductible)
- $1,000,000 maximum benefit under Major Medical (subject to a deductible of $100)
- additional accident expenses up to $300 per person per accident
- diagnostic x-ray and laboratory expenses
- full maternity benefits
- conversion of Life and Medical Care coverage
- dependent coverage for spouse and children

Many in the neighborhood have long awaited this program. Don't miss these three opportunities to meet with the company representative in the Caboose.

The Depot Town Association

is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character and history of the Depot Town area and to ensuring the economic growth and stability of the area.

Business/Property Membership is $25, Associate Membership is $10 and Sustaining Membership is $100 annually. Dues are payable yearly on August 1.

The Association meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Caboose at 400 Market Place.

Jim MacDonald's
ANTIQUES
Located in Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town
Buy and Sell
Antique Furniture
Finished and Rough
29 E. Cross
Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197
(313) 481-0555

DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION INC.

The Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Please send
- ☐ D.T.A. Membership information
- ☐ Caboose rental information
- ☐ Caboose tax-donation information
- ☐ Monthly/Annual advertising rates
- ☐ Insurance plan facts and figures
- ☐ Monthly D.T.A. Newsletter

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

YPSILANTI RECYCLING PROJECT

Hon's
Flowers and Fancies
46 E. Cross 482-2124

PILGRIM STAMP & COIN
18 E. Cross St. 483-5960

J & J Plaster Craft Studio
21 E. Cross Street
Learn a new hobby - no firing necessary
PLAQUES — STATUES — LAMPS

Jacqueline's Boutique
gently used women's clothes
25 E. Cross St. 487-9582

THE HEALTH EMPORIUM
To your good health —
for your nutritional needs
19 E. Cross Street 485-2711

Ted's Auto Electric
307 N. River St. 483-1238

OLIVER'S alibi
BOOZE BURGERS & BILLIARDS
39 E. CROSS ST.
Depot Town, Ypsilanti

Shear Genius
Geometric Hair Designs by Kathy
483-1305 482-3633

Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market
in historic Depot Town
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wednesday and Saturday

RIVER ARTWORKS
custom framing
designer matting
lithographic prints
specialists with needlework and object framing
community gallery for local artists
Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 10:00-7:30 Fri.-Sat. 10:00-6:00
482-8785

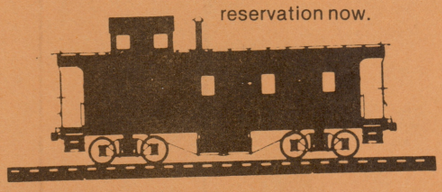
Weber's
37 E. Cross St.
groceries and things

Matt Barinotti

Caboose Staffed on Saturdays

Regular Saturday hours are now seen at the DTA Caboose in the person of Matt Barinotti, a 14-year-old ninth grader on assignment from Ann Arbor's Community High School. As a Community Resource credit, Matt does weekly maintenance, welcomes visitors, disseminates information on the Association, membership, dues, ads, newsletters and the neighborhood, health-hospitalization program. Matt also makes Association deliveries within the block and is a great all-around handyman for us. Introduce yourself. Thank him. Help keep him active.

DTA CABOOSE READY FOR YOUR PRIVATE PARTY — Call 482-6371 for your reservation now.



Important City Election Monday, 16 February 1981

BE SURE TO CAST YOUR VOTE — City Council, Mayor, Propositions "A" and "B".

Caboose Celebrates One Year in Depot Town

On Valentine's Day, 1980, a one-hundred-year-old, twenty-ton Valentine was delivered to Depot Town. Stop by on Saturday, the fourteenth and celebrate. Bring a Valentine to the Caboose. If New York City can do it, so can Depot Town.
I DT!

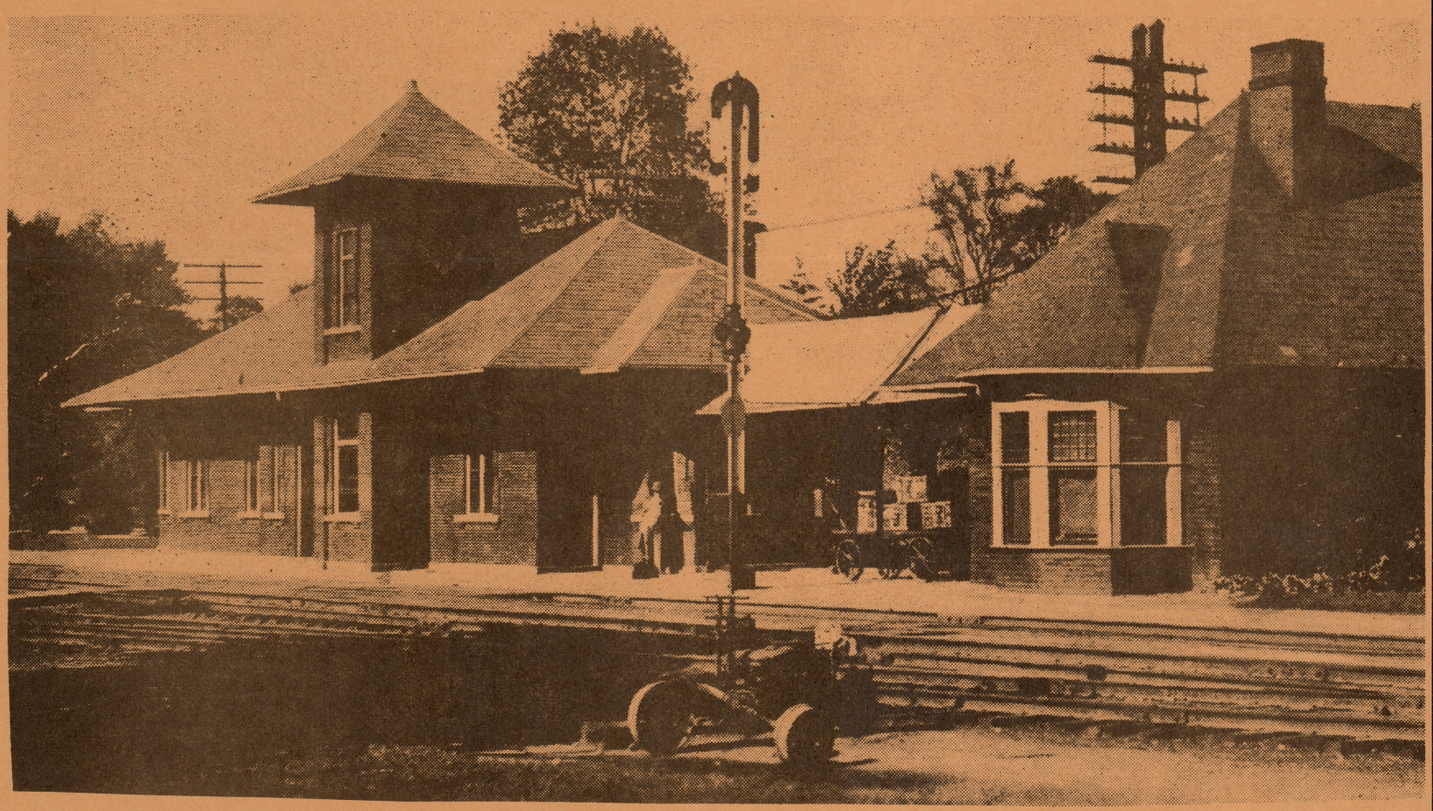
depot town
400
D.T.M.-C.R. & R. CO.
YPSILANTI • MICHIGAN

SIDETRACK
GOOD MUSIC
GOOD FRIENDS
AND GOOD DRINK
and Now Good Food
56 E. Cross
Depot Town

and everything nice
RECYCLED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
HANDCRAFTED TOYS & GIFTS
27 EAST CROSS "DEPOT TOWN"
YPSILANTI, MI 48197 • 483-6926
TUES - FRI 10-5 • SAT 10-3

Old Town
RESTAURANT
home-cooked
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Specials
in historic depot town
Ypsilanti

"We serve the arts."
RIVER ARTWORKS
Professional Matting and Framing
Photo Restoration
Gallery of Local Artists
Workshops
482-8785
50 E. Cross, Ypsilanti
Open Tues.-Sat., 10-8 p.m.
Fri. 10-6 p.m.

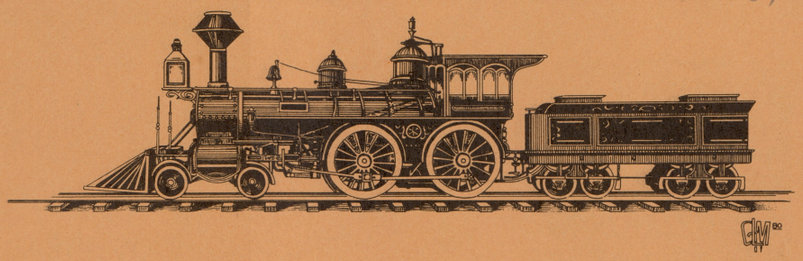


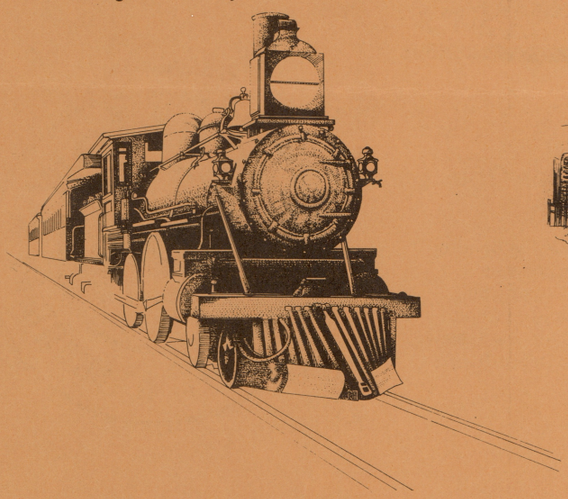
2/1981

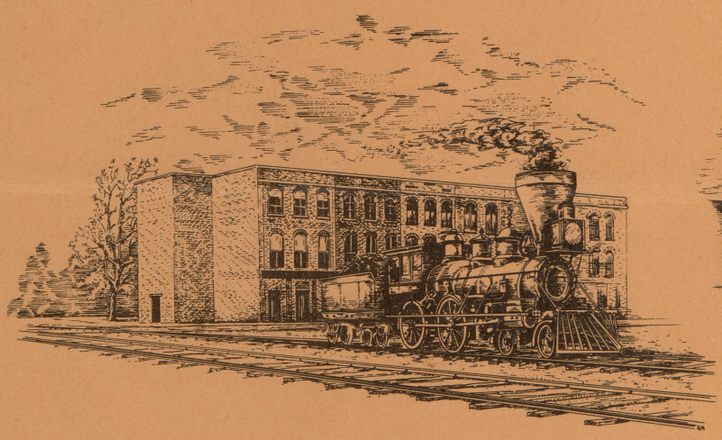
depot town

Drawings by Gary Markley

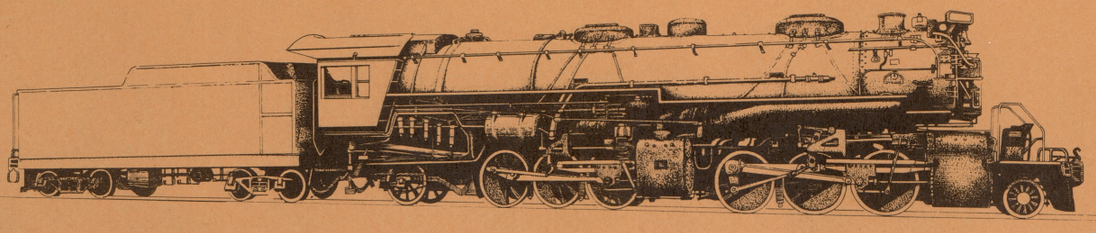
Gary Markley has been living in Depot Town for a couple of years now over on Maple Street. He's a 33-year-old Vietnam vet who just finished a degree in technical illustration at Washtenaw Community College. Gary made prints of these drawings to sell at his booth during last year's Heritage Festival. Recently he has been working at Sun Graphics as an illustrator and his work is on display in the Old Town Hall Heritage Art Gallery.







All Drawings © Gary Markley 1981



depot town